(c) Replanting of Senile Cashew Plantations have not been taken up by the Government of Andhra Pradesh so far.

(d) No target has been fixed for replanting of Senile Cashew Plantation in Andhra Pradesh during the current financial year 2003-04.

National Livestok Policy

5145. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE :
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have drawn up a National Livestock Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the new policy makes adequate provision for generating employment opportunities in the agricultural sectors and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are being contemplated to secure greater budgetary allocation during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir. However, a draft National Livestock Policy has been drawn up.

(b) and (c) National Livestock Policy is being formulated to attain qualitative and /quantitative improvement in livestock, livestock products, feed and fodder resources, and also to have a better interface between modern technologies regarding breeding, nutrition and health care through various management interventions and Animal Husbandry Extension Programme, to guide the future policies and programmes which will result in additional employment opportunity.

(d) New Schemes namely Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme, Poultry/Dairy Venture Capital Funds, Strengthening of Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production and Strengthening of Database Information Net Working are being taken up during 10th Plan Period. The 9th Plan allocation of Rs. 1682.95 crore has been enhanced to Rs.2500/- crore in 10th Plan.

Investment on R and D in Agriculture

5146. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO :
SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to invest more on research and development in agriculture to reduce import bill of edible oils; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government proposes to raise allocation in the X Plan for research and development on oilseeds in the country.

The total investment in oilseed research funded by ICAR to its institutes and All India Coordinated Research Projects on nine oilseed crops (groundnut, soyabean, rapeseed-mustard, sunflower, safflower, linseed, sesame, niger and castor) oilpalm and oil bearing trees is proposed to be raised from Rs. 14493.79 lakh in IX Plan to Rs. 24757.82 lakh in X Plan.

Under Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses and Maize an allocation of Rs. 950 crore has been made in the X Plan compared to Rs. 808.63 crore provided in the IX Plan for promotion of oilseed, pulse and maize production in the country.

Steps have been taken to develop improved varieties and hybrids of oilseeds with better yield potential than existing cultivars. Integrated pest and nutrient management programs, quality seed production and front line demonstrations have been given high priority. A plan has been drawn up to strengthen research in biotechnology during the X Plan for development of varieties resistant to biotic and abiotic stresses.

Policy on GM crop and food

5147. SHRI ABANI ROY :
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to redraft the policy on GM crop and food;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the GM crop and food policy adopted earlier was ineffective to deal with the various problems faced by Government;

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(e) whether Government are inclined to develop GM food in the country; and

(f) what is the opinion of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee on GM food?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) The release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) into the environment is governed by the "Rules